



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure
Report for 2 October 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- A USA Today review found that airline pilots regularly violate federal law by chit-chatting or joking during critical phases of flight — the kind of distractions that may have played a role in two recent fatal crashes that killed a total of 62 people, according to government records. (See item [15](#))
- According to the Associated Press, the Tennessee Valley Authority will raise the height of four dams in eastern Tennessee with sand-filled containers after a new analysis suggested the dams could be topped by a worst-case flood, the federal utility said Wednesday. (See item [40](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Texas) **West Texas wind farm billed as world's largest begins operations.** A massive West Texas wind farm billed as the largest in the world is up and running. German company E.ON Climate and Renewables on October 1 announced the completion of the 100,000-acre wind farm near Roscoe that spans four

counties. The company says the 627-turbine wind farm is now producing energy. It has the capacity to generate 781.5 megawatts, enough electricity to power more than 230,000 homes. Texas is the nation's top wind power-producing state.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-texas-wind-farm,0,903067.story>

2. *October 1, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (Ohio) **Sunoco receives \$147,000 in proposed OSHA penalties.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed \$147,000 in fines against Sunoco Inc., an oil refinery in Oregon, Ohio, for alleged willful and serious violations of federal workplace safety standards. OSHA initiated a safety inspection at the facility in April 2009 and found one serious violation and two willful violations. The most critical citations issued are for the alleged failure to ensure the use of properly engineered pipe clamps; ensure pipe leaks were repaired properly; repair or replace pipe valves, follow proper repair procedures and implement safe practices for hazard control during the service and maintenance process.

Source:

[http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=20334&pagetitle=Sunoco+receives+\\$147,000+in+proposed+OSHA+penalties+](http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=20334&pagetitle=Sunoco+receives+$147,000+in+proposed+OSHA+penalties+)

3. *September 29, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Exploding gas storage tanks injure worker in Miami.** A man was maimed early morning on September 29 after an explosion rocked a Miami convenience store where workers were cleaning and dismantling old gas storage tanks, fire officials said. His left leg had been severed below the knee. The man and another, who were working at a Quik Stop Market, had dug up three 3,000-gallon gasoline drums on September 28 and were cleaning and dismantling the tanks, which had not been used in more than two decades. The men were cutting through one of the tanks when a spark from the large circular saw apparently ignited fumes. The end of one of the tanks blew off, striking the man's leg. Miami fire and police are investigating.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/breaking-news/story/1257617.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *October 1, WMSV 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Ammonia leak blocks South Nashville roads.** Nashville firefighters had to block off several streets while cleaning up an ammonia leak from a CSX train overnight. One worker had to be taken to the hospital after breathing fumes from the spill. He is expected to be OK. The spill happened at the same train yard where two trains bumped into each other Wednesday morning, causing a small hydrochloric acid spill. Authorities said the two accidents are not related.

Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/news/21168482/detail.html>

5. *October 1, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (Louisiana; Texas) **Formosa Plastics to spend \$12.8M to address EPA violations.** Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas, and

Formosa Plastics Corporation, Louisiana, will spend more than \$10 million on pollution controls to address air, water and hazardous waste violations at two petrochemical plants in Point Comfort, Texas, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on September 30. The companies also have agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$2.8 million to resolve violations under the Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Under the agreement lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, both the Texas and Louisiana facilities will implement a comprehensive CAA enhanced leak detection and repair program, which goes beyond regulatory requirements by requiring more stringent leak definitions, more frequent monitoring and monitoring and repair of additional chemical manufacturing equipment. The leak prevention practices agreed to in the settlement include an innovative program to replace valves with new “low leak” valve technology, which will significantly reduce the likelihood of future leaks of air pollutants. The enhanced program also includes requirements for periodic audits of the companies’ leak prevention practices to ensure compliance going forward. The enhanced leak detection and repair program will potentially reduce the annual volatile organic compound (VOC) air emissions from the two Formosa facilities by approximately 6,570,000 pounds per year of VOCs, including hazardous air pollutants such as vinyl chloride.

Source:

[http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=20310&pagetitle=Formosa+Plastics+to+spend+\\$12.8M+to+address+EPA+violations](http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=20310&pagetitle=Formosa+Plastics+to+spend+$12.8M+to+address+EPA+violations)

6. *September 30, WTFV 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Chemical spill forces CSX to reroute trains.** Hazardous materials crews were called out after a small chemical spill in South Nashville. Fire officials said they were called to a CSX rail yard near Veritas Street and Trousdale Drive around 6:30 a.m. Wednesday after a small amount of hydrochloric acid spilled. Hazmat teams from CSX, the Nashville Fire Department and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency responded to the scene. Officials said a mechanism designed to release pressure burst when two tankers latched together. Less than two gallons of acid was released. CSX crews immediately notified fire officials. “We have an evacuation of about 100 feet — and that’s just to keep our own personnel safe while the HazMat teams go in and cap the two tanker cars,” said the assistant fire chief. Trains scheduled to run through the rail yard were rerouted for about two hours while crews cleaned the scene. “Between their HazMat team and our two HazMat teams, we’re going to make sure it does not impact the environment,” said the chief. “Its definitely not going to impact anyone outside the rail yard itself.” No one was injured in the spill.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=11231584>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *October 1, Reuters* – (Michigan) **DTE shuts Mich. Fermi 2 reactor.** DTE Energy Co shut the 1,122-megawatt Unit 2 at the Fermi power station in Michigan from full power on September 30 due to hydrogen leakage into stator water cooling system, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. In the report, the company said the shutdown was uncomplicated and it was investigating the cause of the hydrogen leakage. The stator is the stationary part of a rotor system.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0125955520091001>
8. *October 1, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Lacey Township’s Oyster Creek generating station cited for low-level safety issues.** Inspectors cited the Oyster Creek Generating Station in New Jersey for two low-level safety issues found during a shutdown of the plant in July. Two emergency backup systems at the plant were not functioning properly when inspected as a result of an electrical storm that shut down the plant July 12. The results of the inspection were released Wednesday by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). One finding involved the emergency diesel generator, which is used to provide backup power in the event of an emergency. Contacts on the generator had degraded, and inspectors found that the generator could not start up as fast as required by the NRC. A breaker was supposed to close within 7.3 seconds, but during the inspection, it took 91 seconds to close. “Those seconds could be crucial in a severe-accident scenario,” NRC spokesman said.
Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/ocean/article_2557802a-add7-11de-b03f-001cc4c002e0.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *September 29, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Officials say no foul play in plant explosion.** Kentucky officials say water falling on molten metal appears to have caused an explosion at an eastern Kentucky metals plant. The Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet spokeswoman says the Kentucky fire marshal was investigating the explosion on Tuesday. She says seven people were injured at the Special Metals nickel alloy plant in Burnaugh on Monday, but none of the injuries appeared life threatening. A furnace at the plant exploded about 3 p.m. Monday, causing cuts, scrapes, burns and smoke inhalation among employees. The Boyd County Emergency Services director says damage at the facility about 10 miles south of Catlettsburg does not appear extensive.
Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=11225908>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *September 29, Newport News Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Northrop moving forward on submarine investigation.** Northrop Grumman Corp. is making progress on its

investigation into how Newport News workers incorrectly installed bolts and fasteners in weapons-handling systems on four Navy submarines, the yard general manager said. While the yard has made some preliminary conclusions, it is not ready to release its findings and instead is focused on fixing the problems on the submarine New Mexico to expedite its delivery to the Navy, he said. That boat, a Virginia-class submarine under construction in Newport News, was on track to be completed in September and commissioned in November. But after problems were found in its weapons-handling systems, commissioning was pushed back to early 2010. The yard, working with sub-building partner General Dynamics Electric Boat, also must expedite repairs on the submarine North Carolina, which is commissioned but undergoing maintenance in Groton, Connecticut. Two other subs, the Missouri and California, also had problems, but both are still under construction. On each of the subs, Northrop improperly installed bolts and fasteners that hold together tracks on which weapons are moved in the torpedo room. Improper installation of these pieces could result in a misalignment of the equipment, preventing the movement of weapon cradles within the torpedo room. Changes could be in store for Northrop's quality assurance and testing programs, both of which are in charge of detecting problems during construction. Neither the 2007 welding issue nor the latest problem with weapons-handling systems were caught in Newport News, casting some of the blame on those inspectors.

Source: http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-biz_northrop_0930sep30,0,3743744.story

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 30, Bloomberg* – (National) **Major U.S. banks' FDIC premiums may top \$10 billion.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s plan to rebuild its reserves may cost Bank of America Corp. and three of the largest U.S. banks more than \$10 billion. Bank of America, the biggest U.S. lender by deposits, may owe \$3.5 billion under an FDIC proposal that banks prepay three years of premiums, based on the lowest assessment rate multiplied by the bank's \$900 billion in June 30 U.S. deposits. U.S. bank premiums range from 12 cents per \$100 in deposits for the safest lenders to 45 cents for banks the U.S. considers risky, said a senior regulatory counsel for the Independent Community Bankers of America. The FDIC proposed asking banks to pay premiums for the fourth quarter and next three years on Dec. 30. The fees will raise \$45 billion. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=auEG9sH4Cs2g>
12. *September 30, SCMagazine* – (National) **Two accused Romanian phishers plead innocent.** Two Romanian citizens allegedly involved in a large-scale phishing scam have been extradited to the United States, where they will face fraud and identity theft charges. The men were arrested this year on separate Interpol warrants and were extradited in September, according to a joint statement from the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice. After being extradited, both men pleaded innocent to the charges — one count each of conspiracy to commit fraud in connection with access devices, conspiracy to commit bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. According to

prosecutors, the defendants delivered bogus emails to the customers of a number of financial institutions, including JP Morgan Chase, Comerica Bank, Wells Fargo, eBay and PayPal, with the goal of tricking them into giving up their personal information, such as credit card, bank account and Social Security numbers. The investigation stemmed from a complaint filed by a customer of People's United Bank, based in Connecticut.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Two-accused-Romanian-phishers-plead-innocent/article/151052/>

13. *September 30, Reuters* – (National) **Lawmaker seeks support for rating agency reform.** The chairman of the House Financial Services subcommittee on capital markets is seeking to gain bipartisan support for legislation that would tighten regulation of credit rating agencies, and he hopes for committee action on the bill in the next few weeks. He circulated a draft bill last week that would give the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission power to dictate how credit rating agencies determine ratings. He said that his subcommittee will meet to discuss and vote on the legislation in the next two to three weeks. The legislation would then move to the full committee for consideration, before it could go before the full House of Representatives for a vote. Earlier on Wednesday, another House panel held a hearing into why the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ignored warnings from former Moody's executives about the company's weak compliance department and ratings process. The rating firms "played a starring role in the collapse of the financial system last year," because they failed to capture the true risk of securities linked to poorly written mortgages, said the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressReleasesMolt/idUSTRE58T5YG20090930>

14. *September 30, The Register* – (Wyoming) **Bank snafu Gmail missive never opened.** The confidential email at the heart of a roundabout U.S. lawsuit against Google was never opened, according to the bank that accidentally sent the missive to the wrong Gmail account. This summer, according to court documents, an unnamed employee with the Wyoming-based Rocky Mountain Bank was asked by a customer to send some loan documents to a Gmail account used by a third party. But the employee mistakenly sent them to a different Gmail account, along with another confidential file packed with the names, addresses, tax IDs, and loan info for 1,325 of the bank's customers. The bank attempted to retrieve the documents, sending additional messages to the account, but did not receive a reply. And when Google rightly refused to release the identity of the person behind the account, the bank sued the web giant in federal court. On September 25, the court issued a temporary restraining order, insisting that Google shut the account down and divulge whether the account was still active and whether the confidential info had been viewed. And if the account was indeed active, Google was also ordered to divulge the user's identity and contact information. Google complied with the order, but in an email to The Reg, the company declined to say what information was revealed. Repeated calls to a lawyer for the Rocky Mountain Bank went unanswered, but according to a report from CNET News, the bank has said that the confidential message was never opened and that it has now been permanently

deleted.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/09/30/rocky_mountain_google_case_fini/

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Transportation Sector

15. *October 1, USA Today* – (National) **Cockpit chatter cited in six crashes.** Airline pilots regularly violate federal law by chit-chatting or joking during critical phases of flight — the kind of distractions that may have played a role in two recent fatal crashes that killed a total of 62 people, according to government records. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has cited violations of the “sterile cockpit rule” in six crashes since 2004, a USA Today review found. In addition, the pilots of a commuter plane that crashed February 12 near Buffalo were casually talking minutes before the accident that killed 50 people. More than half — 11 out of 20 — of the cockpit recording transcripts released in serious accidents during the past decade contain evidence of violations, USA Today found. Comments that range from mimicking a chicken to expletive-laced jokes were captured on cockpit recordings. Since 1981, federal law has barred such banter while taxiing and flying below 10,000 feet. Pilots need to improve their discipline, according to some safety advocates. “It is sending a signal that following the regulations are not necessary,” said an NTSB board member and former airline pilot.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-10-01-pilot-speak_N.htm

16. *October 1, WABE 90.1 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Flood-damaged bridge in Douglas County must come down.** State inspectors say flooding caused irreparable damage to the Highway 166 Bridge in Douglas County, and it must come down. Travelers rarely notice the short bridge on Highway 166 that crosses the Annawakee Creek. Now that flooding has washed away the bridge’s approach, leaving a 50-foot hole in the roadway, they and the 9,000 cars that travel this road daily have no choice but to notice. “Annawakee Creek was just a small creek. Now it’s more like a river. It’s amazing to see what Mother Nature has done to such a heavy structure,” said one onlooker. The area is only 10 miles west of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, as evidenced by the huge jets flying overhead. Meanwhile, a G-DOT inspector is chin-deep in the muddy water. He thrusts a long, white measuring stick into the creek’s depths, then calls out a reading. The soil under the footings which support the bridge has eroded badly. When flood waters hit the bridge supports, the waters started to swirl. That violent motion scooped out the natural soil beneath, causing a scour hole. Based on computer analysis of the measurements, G-DOT determines the bridge is unable to be fixed. A state bridge maintenance engineer said, “I’d say it’ll at least a year we’ll be finished. It’s just according to how fast we can get everything into place. I don’t want to give people false hopes.”

Source:

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wabe/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1560845/Atlanta/Flood-Damaged.Bridge.in.Douglas.Co..Must.Come.Down>

17. *September 30, New York Post* – (Massachusetts) **Feathers fly as bird dents La Guardia jet.** A Delta Air Lines shuttle flight from Boston got a bloody nose yesterday, courtesy of a bird flying near La Guardia Airport. The latest midair collision between a commercial airliner and a fowl happened just before 6 p.m. as the Boeing MD-80, which had taken off from Logan Airport at 4:30 p.m., struck the bird on final approach to the airport, an FAA spokeswoman said. The crew of Flight 1393 “followed all established procedures and landed without incident,” a Delta spokesman said. Nobody was hurt. An airport worker who saw the plane taxi to the gate said people on the runway were stunned to see blood, feathers, and a huge dent on the plane’s nose.
Source: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/queens/feathers_fly_as_bird_dents_la_guardia_tgivsGLOLiY9QDIw8iOMDN
18. *September 30, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Illinois; Missouri) **St. Louis bridge to receive \$1.4M safety makeover.** The Martin Luther King Bridge, which crosses the Mississippi River between St. Louis, Missouri and East St. Louis, Illinois will close for 12 days to receive a safety upgrade. The four-lane bridge will be converted into a three-lane roadway with wider lanes and a concrete barrier between the two directions to prevent crossover accidents. The \$1.4 million project will be completed October 24.
Source: <http://www.smartbrief.com/news/asce/storyDetails.jsp?issueid=A4E7A9EE-CEB5-4FD1-866B-7750B4E32E04©id=5FE93DB0-50D4-4199-B590-1027D631CF5D>
19. *September 30, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Plane inspected after bomb note found.** Authorities inspected a plane at Boston’s Logan Airport on Wednesday after a threatening note was discovered on board. No bomb was found and the plane was given the all-clear. The American Airlines plane and luggage were searched Wednesday by police and a bomb-sniffing dog after an employee found a note reading “Bomb on board, Boston-Miami” on a bathroom wall. No passengers were on board at the time.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33100697/ns/travel-news/>

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [6](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

See item [22](#)

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Water Sector

20. *September 30, KOVR 13 Sacramento* – (California) **Police arrest 3 in Roseville fire hydrant thefts.** A tip called into the Roseville, California Crime Stoppers hotline has led to the arrest of three men in connection with a series of thefts at construction sites in the Roseville area, and could be tied to construction site thefts throughout the Sacramento region. Police arrested three men who are suspected of stealing \$20,000 in fire hydrants, fire hydrant parts, water backflow devices, and copper wiring from three separate construction areas in Roseville. After getting the Crime Stoppers tip, Roseville Police investigators searched two houses, one in Orangevale and one in Fair Oaks. During the search, investigators say they found discarded fire hydrant shells and other parts. Investigators believe the suspects stripped the brass and valuable metal from the stolen items to sell. The first man is facing charges of grand theft and conspiracy. He is being held in the Placer County Jail on \$15,000 bail. The second is facing the same charges but was also arrested on a Placer County traffic warrant. He is being held on \$17,500 bail. The third was arrested on suspicion of grand theft and released on a promise to appear.
Source: <http://cbs13.com/local/metal.theft.arrests.2.1218497.html>
21. *September 30, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Pennsylvania) **U.S. sues Scranton Sewer Authority for Clean Water Act violations.** The U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has filed a complaint asking a federal court to order the Scranton Sewer Authority to stop discharges of untreated sewage into the Lackawanna River in Pennsylvania. The complaint alleges numerous illegal discharges of untreated sewage, discharging more than a billion gallons of untreated sewage in 2008, threatening human health and water quality, and violating the federal Clean Water Act. The complaint asks the court to issue an order to the Scranton Sewer Authority to eliminate or minimize the risk to human health and water quality posed by the discharges, and come into compliance with federal requirements and its state-issued pollution discharge permit. The complaint also seeks financial penalties for the violations. Penalties are assessed based on the seriousness of the violations, the economic benefit from non-compliance, compliance history, the economic impact of the penalty, and other factors.
Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/462CE145E4B87AA385257641006B8B9F>
22. *September 29, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma; Arkansas) **State wants judge to punish poultry companies.** The first witness has yet to be called in Oklahoma's 2005 pollution lawsuit against the Arkansas poultry industry, and the state's attorneys are already asking a judge to reprimand the companies for violating court rules and making other distortions during opening arguments last week. It is an early sign that suggests the case, which accuses poultry giants like Tyson Foods Inc. and Cargill Inc., of polluting a northeastern Oklahoma watershed with bird waste, could be a long slog, as every detail is held up to scrutiny. Testimony is scheduled to begin Wednesday, and the case could last weeks. The outcome is being monitored by other states thinking about challenging the way Big Poultry does business in other watersheds. Oklahoma's

complaint filed Monday in Tulsa federal court accuses the industry of suggesting in opening statements last week that Oklahoma attorney general was suing the companies to benefit his own interests, not the state's. The complaint also says the companies violated a pretrial order forbidding them from mentioning the result of a 2008 preliminary hearing — which found that Oklahoma lacked evidence to immediately stop the companies from spreading bird waste in the Illinois River watershed while the case went to trial. Oklahoma is asking U.S. District Judge to scold the 11 companies it is suing over the “objectionable statements,” stating that while “parties are traditionally granted wide latitude in what may be said in opening statement, that latitude does not extend, however, to violating court rulings, misstating a court ruling and misrepresenting what the state has said in its opening statement.” A spokesman for Tyson, said Tuesday the companies have complied with all the court's orders, and that Oklahoma's complaint “was filed in an effort to distract the court from the truth about this case.” Oklahoma sued the industry in 2005, claiming the hundreds of thousands of tons of bird waste it spreads on fields on the Oklahoma-Arkansas border is one of the major causes of pollution in the 1 million-acre river valley.

Source: http://www.edmondsun.com/statenews/local_story_272155442.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *October 1, WHAM 13 Rochester* – (New York) **New emergency rooms open, but more bed space needed.** The opening of two new hospital emergency rooms (ER) in Rochester, New York could ease overcrowding and the back-up in the ER, but health care planning agencies say new emergency rooms are not the only answer. They say the real problem is not in the ER, but the lack of inpatient beds in the hospital. “When we come in, and there's physically not enough beds or not enough space to place patients, that's when our system really starts to get backed up,” said the EMS Director of Monroe Ambulance. “So adding a few more beds and really changing the flow and efficiency of their ED space helps the staff do a much more efficient job of moving patients in and out.” When the emergency room gets backed up, hospitals go “code red,” which means patients are diverted to other hospitals. Highland Hospital's new emergency room, which was unveiled Tuesday night, will treat non-trauma cases which will help ease overcrowding at the other hospitals and could shorten the wait in the ER. Rochester General Hospital will also open its new emergency room next week. It will be double the size of the old one, which means they will be able to treat more people and provide more on-site care.

Source: http://www.13wham.com/guides/health/story/New-Emergency-Rooms-Open-But-More-Bed-Space-Needed/-sv-_Y8wGUmlXdno5bhFEQ.csp

24. *September 30, IDG News Service* – (National) **Express Scripts: 700,000 notified after extortion.** Nearly a year after being hacked by computer extortionists, pharmacy benefits management company Express Scripts now says hundreds of thousands of members may have had their information breached because of the incident. Last November, the company reported that someone had threatened to expose millions of

customer prescription records, but it has come under criticism for being vague about how many of its customers' records were accessed. Now the company says that about 700,000 have been notified. The trouble started for the St. Louis-based company in October 2008, when it received a letter containing the names, birth dates, Social Security numbers and prescription data of 75 patients. The extortionists threatened to turn the information public if they were not paid. Express Scripts refused and instead notified the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. The company is now offering a US \$1 million reward for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrators. Express Script has not said how the criminals managed to get hold of the data, but in an e-mailed statement the company said that "there have been no reported cases of misuse of member information resulting from the incident."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9138723/Express_Scripts_700_000_notified_after_extortion?taxonomyId=17

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *October 1, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Wind driven Vandenberg blaze 50 percent contained.** A wildfire that burned 350 acres of dry brush at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County, California is at least 50 percent contained. The fire started just before noon Wednesday, and was sparked by a blown transformer near the base's main gate on Highway 1, according to an Air Force news release. Power lines were down and sporadic electricity outages were reported. Hundreds of base employees were ordered to leave certain buildings after the fire was reported, according to a Santa Barbara County fire department captain. "The forward movement of the fire has been stopped," he said. "We're not out of the woods yet, but we're making good progress." The blaze was burning out of control and was being fanned by 50 mph winds. About 20 engines, 10 air tankers, and five helicopters were working on the fire. The western edge of the blaze was contained, according to the fire captain. To the east, the fire was halted at Pine Canyon, about a mile and a half from homes in the town of Vandenberg Village. No structures were threatened.

Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-vandenberg-blaze.0,2928662.story>

26. *September 30, IDG News Services* – (Texas) **Texas governor blames Web campaign flop on hackers.** The kick-off for the Texas governor's 2010 re-election campaign was marred Tuesday by a Web site outage that staffers are now calling a denial-of-service attack. The governor had invited supporters to visit his campaign Web site at 11:30 a.m. CT on Tuesday to attend a 10-minute online rally billed as "Talkin' Texas." Instead, site visitors were rebuffed with a computer error message. The governor's campaign said in a note posted to its Web site that the attack was a calculated act of political sabotage. Before the site crashed, more than 22,000 visitors were able to access the event, the governor's campaign said. But according to local coverage of the incident, the outage did not entirely resemble a distributed denial-of-service attack, (DDoS) which renders the server extremely slow or inaccessible to most visitors.

Instead, Austin's KXAN reported that the site displayed the message "Unable to connect to database server," generated by the Drupal content-management platform. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9138685/Texas_governor_blames_Web_cam_paign_flop_on_hackers

27. *September 29, Aiken Standard* – (South Carolina) **Acid spill cleanup puts SRS on lockdown.** The cleanup of an acid spill which injured workers earlier in September caused a lockdown at Savannah River Site's F-Area last week in South Carolina. The use on incorrect equipment to deal with cleanup of a nitric acid spill caused an area emergency coordinator to issue a Remain Indoors Protective Action for all in F-Area. Two site representatives noted in their weekly report that workers disobeyed instructions when using a drill bit during a draining process, and other equipment that was not recommended, specifically a funnel, was used. The report said that after attempting to tackle the problem involving the drill bit and funnel, workers backed away from the area after their "stay time" — the length of time they can be around a substance — was approaching an end. The area was then observed from a distance with binoculars, and "brown fumes were being generated and bubbles could be seen in the liquid. Operations managers decided to evacuate the area, according to the report. Source: <http://www.aikenstandard.com/Local/0930Acid>

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *October 1, Associated Press and NBC Connecticut* – (National) **Police: Cop's gun was used in 5 shootings.** A second Waterbury, Connecticut, police officer is under arrest in New Haven. This officer is facing gun and bomb charges, less than a week after another Waterbury cop was busted on drug charges. He turned himself into the New Haven Police Department after two of his guns went missing and turned up in the hands of felons. Wednesday he was booked with his lawyers at his side. He is facing five charges including illegally transferring or selling firearms. New Haven police say two of his personal guns turned up on two different dangerous felons and they do not know how. They say the first was recovered in Fair Haven. The second has been linked to a shootout with police outside of Humphreys in New Haven last December. Source: <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local-beat/Cops-Gun-Was-Used-in-5-Shootings-Cops-62886497.html>
29. *September 30, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **U.S. Coast Guard trying to ID suspected hoax caller.** The U.S. Coast Guard says it needs help identifying a suspected hoax caller. Coast Guard officials said in a statement Tuesday the caller contacted Sector Sault St. Marie three times between September 12-27. Officials said the first two calls were made on September 12 and included "Mayday" calls from the "Magyver" and "Banana" motor vessels. Both claimed they were "taking on water." A September 27 call made from the "Fox" made the same claims. A false distress call is a felony. Penalties include up to six years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, a \$5,000 civil penalty and

the possible reimbursement to the U.S. Coast Guard for all costs related to a search.
Source: <http://www.9and10news.com/category/story/?id=173783>

For another story, see item [34](#)

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Information Technology Sector

30. *October 1, The Register* – (International) **SSL spoof bug still haunts IE, Safari, Chrome.** Nine weeks after a hacker demonstrated how to spoof authentication certificates for virtually any Web site on the Internet, users of Internet Explorer and many other applications remain susceptible because Microsoft has not patched the underlying vulnerability. The bug, which resides in an application programming interface known as CryptoAPI, causes IE and other applications that rely on the code to be tricked by fraudulent secure sockets layer certificates. It can be exploited to impersonate Web sites, virtual private networks, and email servers by adding a null character to the prefix of an address in a legitimate SSL credential. “There are thousands of products on Windows right now that are still vulnerable to this SSL attack, and if someone were to publicly publish a targeted null prefix certificate, they’d be in trouble,” said the white-hat hacker. “Basically, everything that runs on Windows would be vulnerable with that one certificate.” Among the browsers that rely on the Microsoft library to parse SSL certificates are Google Chrome and Apple Safari for Windows. The bug would cause both — and IE as well — to display a fraudulently authenticated Web site with no warning that anything was amiss. The Firefox browser, by contrast, fixed vulnerabilities related to the null character bug a few days after the white-hat hacker presented his demo at the Black Hat security conference in late July. It remains unclear when the bug will be fixed.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/01/microsoft_crypto_ssl_bug/

31. *October 1, The Register* – (International) **Botnet buries commands in image files.** Security researchers have identified a botnet that borrows an idea from steganography by burying commands in jpg images. The DIKhora botnet, which is primarily geared towards downloading other strains of malware, encodes instructions so that the command and control server appears to be serving up image files, SecureWorks reports. The server sets the HTTP Content-Type header to “image/jpeg” and prefaces the bot commands with a fake 32-byte JPEG header. The bot checks if the header matches and decodes the rest of the response to retrieve its commands. The commands are encoded using a single byte XOR with 0x4. The botnet makes no attempt to pad files such that they resemble genuine image files, a factor that marks the servers used by DIKhora out for detection. Malware installed by the botnet agent, as identified by SecureWorks to date, largely consists of ad hijacking nuisances. Hackers need a method for passing instructions to the Trojan of compromised machines that form part of zombie (botnet) networks. IRC channels used to be the preferred venue for command and control channel but recently this has changed with miscreants experimented with different control channels such as Google Groups, Twitter and now

“image” servers.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/01/stego_botnet_control/

32. *September 30, ITP.net* – (International) **Symantec: SMBs not fully equipped.** There is a large discrepancy between how SMBs perceive their disaster readiness and their actual level of preparedness. That is according to Symantec’s recently released 2009 SMB Disaster Preparedness Study. In a study conducted by Symantec into the attitudes and practices of SMBs and their customers toward technology disaster preparedness, Symantec discovered that the average SMB organization has experienced three network outages within the past 12 months, with the leading causes being virus or hacker attacks, power outages, or natural disasters. It further described the alarming finding that almost half of those companies reported that they do not yet have a plan to deal with such disruptions. The report concluded by offering advice to small to medium businesses to ensure that they are fully protected against the melee of threats and dangers that can befall networks today. Included in the must do list was taking the time to decide what critical information should be secured and protected, engaging trusted industry advisors, implementing automated backup processes, and carrying out annual disaster recovery tests. Symantec says there is positive news to be taken from the responses of the SMBs canvassed. It also came to light in the study that although 47 percent of SMBs do not have a formal disaster preparedness plan, of those without plans, nearly 89 percent say they harbor plans to create one within the next six months. Source: <http://www.itp.net/577784-symantec-smbs-not-fully-equipped>

33. *September 30, Washington Post* – (National) **Hackers breach payroll giant, target customers.** Hackers last week apparently used stolen account information from a New Jersey company that provides online payroll services to target the firm’s customers in a scheme to steal passwords and other information. Morrestown, New Jersey-based PayChoice provides direct payroll processing services and licenses its online employee payroll management product to at least 240 other payroll processing firms, serving 125,000 organizations. Last Wednesday, a number of PayChoice customers received an e-mail warning them that they needed to download a Web browser plug-in in order to maintain uninterrupted access to onlineemployer.com, the portal for PayChoice’s online payroll service. The supposed plug-in was instead malicious software designed to steal the victim’s user names and passwords. In a statement e-mailed to Security Fix, PayChoice said the company discovered on September 23 that its online systems had been breached. The company said it immediately shut down the onlineemployer.com site and instituted fresh security measures to protect client information, such as requiring users to change their passwords. If successful, PayChoice said, the malicious sites downloaded a Trojan horse program called TrojanDownloader:Win32/Bredolab.X, which according to Microsoft is a malware program that tries to download additional malicious files and disable security software on the infected PC. According to a blogger and security expert who writes the Unixwiz blog and who had several customers who received the malicious e-mails, the malware used in the attack is poorly detected by most anti-virus products on the market today. A PayChoice spokesperson said the company was still investigating the extent of the breach, noting that PayChoice has hired two outside computer forensic experts, and that

it is actively working with federal law enforcement investigators.

Source:

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/securityfix/2009/09/hackers_breach_payroll_giant_t.html?wprss=securityfix

Internet Alert Dashboard

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Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

34. *October 1, Adirondack Daily Enterprise* – (New York) **Emergency repeater removed from tower.** A radio repeater meant to be used in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency is off the air after a contractor working for the village of Saranac Lake removed it from the village's radio tower on Mount Pisgah. The disaster coordinator for the North Country Chapter of the American Red Cross said he tried to test the emergency repeater about two weeks ago and got no response. The next day the coordinator hiked up Mount Pisgah to see what was wrong with the repeater, which was installed on the tower in 2003. When he reached the top of the mountain, he was surprised to find that "The antenna had been removed and was sitting in the building next to the tower," he said. The coordinator then contacted village officials and learned that a contractor working for the village had removed two antennas from the tower because no one could determine to whom they belonged. The disaster coordinator said the village apparently did not have a copy of the permit they received to put up the repeater, which is licensed to the American Red Cross Amateur Radio Quick Response Team. But, he said his name, address, and phone number were on the repeater. It is unclear exactly how long the repeater has been off the air. Officials said it was removed sometime in the last couple of weeks. The village is now working with its contractor to try and get the equipment re-installed on the tower. As for the other antenna that was removed from the tower, he said they still have not been able to identify its owner. A structural analysis recently found the Mount Pisgah tower can not support the combined weight of its existing antennas and three proposed antennas, although the village is getting a second opinion. There are currently five antennas on the tower, two of which are used by the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department. The others are used by the Saranac Lake Police Department, Franklin County Emergency Services, and North Country Public Radio, which is the only paying tenant.

Source:

<http://adirondackdailyenterprise.com/page/content.detail/id/508928.html?nav=5008>

35. *September 30, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **More charges added to Volusia's copper thief suspect.** The Volusia County Sheriff's Office filed more burglary and grand theft

charges against a man it said was connected to a second theft of copper at another cell phone tower. A 35 year old man of Port Orange was already under arrest for burglary, grand theft, theft of copper, possession of burglary tools, and violation of probation stemming from a cell phone tower burglary on Sunday, September 27 from a Verizon tower. The most recent copper theft from an AT&T cell phone tower was reported on Monday, although an AT&T representative told law enforcement that the theft at their site happened sometime on Sunday as well. The sheriff's office said the burglar broke through a fence, cut about 30 feet of copper ground cable, and took a copper ground buss bar. An AT&T representative looked over the copper wire taken from the man during his arrest and told investigators that the copper was AT&T's. The first tower theft — of a Verizon tower — occurred just before 3 a.m. Sunday just west of Edgewater, the sheriff's office said. Deputies said the burglar was riding a bicycle away from the tower. He was wearing a mask with a small flash light on the top of it. When they stopped him to talk, they noticed he was sweating and had fresh scrapes and cuts on his shins, the sheriff's office said. Deputies noticed a large wrench sticking out from his pocket. Then they found pliers, screw drivers, wire cutters, and flashlights. Not much later, they discovered a duffel bag near the gate at the cell tower. The bag was stuffed with about \$500 worth of copper wire.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/orl-bk-charges-added-copper-theft-093009,0,2734120.story>

36. *September 30, CNET* – (Illinois) **Microsoft opens Windy City data center.** On most days it takes the right access badge and a biometric scan to make it inside the doors of Microsoft's massive data center. But on September 30, the company allowed a group of reporters, customers, and partners to tour the 700,000 square foot facility. The data center, along with another just-opened facility in Dublin, Ireland and existing centers in San Antonio and Quincy, Washington, serve as the guts behind Microsoft's online ambitions, from Bing to Hotmail to Windows Azure. Microsoft's Chicago data center offers a merge of old and new techniques. The ground floor features sealed containers with tightly packed racks of servers, while the second floor houses more traditional server rooms. But, for all its strategic import, the ground floor of the Chicago plant looks more like a truck parking lot than a traditional data center. In each parking spot, though, Microsoft can drop off a container packed with up to 2,000 servers. Right now, only about a dozen of the 56 container spots are filled, but Microsoft executives said they expect that to change quickly. The software maker expects to eventually spend up to \$500 million filling up the Chicago site with gear. The site was originally slated to open months earlier, but Microsoft delayed things due to the economy. The data center itself is housed in an unmarked warehouse in one of the Chicago area's many industrial districts. (The software maker did not want the exact location disclosed.) Microsoft picked the spot because of its convenient spot close to cheap and abundant power as well as the fact it sits atop a major Internet connection point that houses major east-west and north-south fiber routes.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-13860_3-10364746-56.html?tag=newsEditorsPicksArea.0

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Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *September 30, Sun-Times News* – (Illinois) **6 held in damage to Olympic banner.** Charges are pending for five men and a woman arrested after allegedly damaging, and possibly burning, the Chicago 2016 Olympic banner placed on the Picasso statue in Daley Plaza in the Loop Tuesday night. Authorities are seeking felony damage to property and possibly arson charges, police said. Shortly before police responded to the disturbance, an event was held as the Picasso sculpture was to be crowned with the Olympic laurel in recognition of the city's 2016 bid. The monetary value of the banner was not known immediately. Belmont Area detectives are investigating.
Source: <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1798556,olympic-banner-0930.article>
38. *September 28, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Arson ruled cause of Little Nashville Opry fire.** Someone set the fire that destroyed the Little Nashville Opry concert hall in southern Indiana earlier this month, authorities said Monday. No one has been blamed for the arson, and investigators made a request for tips about the fire, which leveled the venue that had hosted many of country music's most famous acts since it opened in 1975. The September 19 blaze started near the stage area and electrical causes have been ruled out, said official of the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. Investigators declined to give additional details about the fire, which started hours after a concert finished at the hall. No injuries were reported at the facility. A Brown County Prosecutor said the owner was among dozens of people who had been interviewed by investigators but cautioned that it was too soon to start naming suspects. A spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said the Opry did not apply for an entertainment permit for 2009. A permit requires an inspection by the state fire marshal's office. Operating without one is illegal and can cost the owner \$750 per day of violation in county and state fines.
Source: <http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/articles/2009/09/28/news/09.txt>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

39. *September 30, Examiner* – (American Samoa) **National Park of American Samoa—tsunami forces employees to flee, destroys visitor center.** The National Park Service (NPS) has released more information about the impact of Wednesday's earthquake and resulting tsunami on the facilities and people of the National Park of American Samoa. Shortly before 7 a.m. an earthquake with a magnitude between 8.0 and 8.3 struck 120 miles from American Samoa, a U. S. territory with a population of approximately 65,000 people. The earthquake was followed by a tsunami that produced several large waves that destroyed the park's visitor center and offices. Employees at the park fled uphill to escape the onshore surge. Some employees were overtaken by water, but were able to run through it to the safety of high ground. All employees and park volunteers are currently accounted for and safe. At least one park employee's residence was destroyed. Resource and facilities damage assessments are in progress. Personnel,

including the Western All-Hazard Incident Management Team, are en route to provide assistance. FEMA is managing the overall response to this event. Fatality estimates for American Samoa range from one to several dozen people.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-4661-National-Parks-Travel-Examiner~y2009m9d30-National-Park-of-American-Samoatsunami-forces-employees-to-flee-destroys-visitor-center>

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Dams Sector

40. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **TVA to raise height of 4 dams over flood concerns.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will raise the height of four dams in eastern Tennessee with sand-filled containers after a new analysis suggested the dams could be topped by a worst-case flood, the federal utility said Wednesday. TVA officials said such an event is “highly unlikely” and would require a disaster four or five times the size of the worst flood on record in 1857. But they said new hydrology studies prepared to support an operating license for a Bellefonte Nuclear Plant downstream in Alabama suggest the measures are needed. The nation’s largest public utility plans to spend \$8 million installing the temporary walls by January at the four dams and to do similar studies at 20 other tributary dams, seven other main channel dams on the Tennessee River and 17 smaller reservoirs over the next year. The temporary walls will be installed atop earthen embankments adjoining the concrete dams at Fort Loudon, Tellico, Cherokee, and Watts Bar lakes. The walls will be 1,400 to 7,000 feet long, depending on the dam, and three to four feet high. TVA calculates that a “probable maximum flood” — defined by regulators as the “most severe flood that can reasonably be predicted to occur at a site” — could overtop those four dams by one to two feet. Such a flood would require a 27-inch rain, twice the amount that caused the floods in Chattanooga and Atlanta last week.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/10/01/business-financial-impact-us-tva-dams_6954283.html

41. *September 30, Upper Valley Standard Journal* – (Idaho) **How do you fix 93-year-old Ashton Dam.** Rocky Mountain Power officials released a flood of information Tuesday about the history of work on the Ashton Dam in Idaho. But the company still cannot say exactly what the company hopes to do to repair the 93-year-old structure. Plumes or discharges of muddy water have been noticed recently. Company representatives met separately with irrigators, Fremont County officials and the public at a Henry’s Fork Foundation-sponsored meeting Tuesday. At the county presentation a company official apologized for the delay in the release of more definitive information, saying the company’s lead engineer was meeting this week with consultants to finalize a preferred option. In his presentation and in response to questions, this much was said about the condition of the concrete capped earthen dam: it is fragile but repairable, it likely will not fail catastrophically, it likely will not be demolished, and whatever repair course is selected, some type of drawdown of the reservoir will be done. At least two options for repairing deficiencies in the dam are under consideration. Those options

could take either one or two years and would involve either a total drawdown of the Ashton Reservoir or a partial drawdown or both.

Source: <http://www.rexburgstandardjournal.com/articles/2009/09/30/news/48.txt>

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